

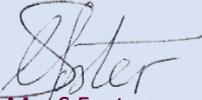
Dear Parents/Carers

Many of us remark each year how quickly it feels that Christmas is upon us again! I hope the weeks ahead won't be too stressful because it always feels like such a busy time of year, with plenty of distractions. That said, we are fortunate as a Catholic community to stay motivated by the true meaning of Christmas, and I hope that each and every one of you has a happy and holy restful break with your family ahead. Before it arrives, and as the end of our first term draws near, it is a pleasure to reflect on what a fantastic few months Bishop Milner has had. As always, it is also important to keep you fully informed with practical arrangements you need to be aware of.

2022/23 sees the second year of our commitment to month-long community celebrations to raise awareness of matters close to our hearts and our Catholic values. Black History Month throughout October made us so proud to see students planning and organising events to celebrate and educate. During November, we did even more to raise awareness of Antbullying than we ever have before – a particular highlight of which was our Masked Singer event in the hall – streamed live to all classes around college. We look forward to more designated months of raising awareness in the new year and if you don't already, please follow our college Facebook page that is regularly updated with the wonderful things staff and students get up to – there really are too many to mention here! Our college teams have enjoyed great sporting success this term, our new library is up and running, rehearsals for this year's college production of The Addams Family are well underway, students have enjoyed many exciting extracurricular trips and visits both abroad and at home, and the Catholic Life of the college continues to flourish, with the added help of our new SAINT programme in morning tutor time. We certainly continue to see many examples of our new college Mission statement, 'Inspiring hearts and minds with Christ at the centre of all we say and do', in action every day.

However grateful I am that our students are provided with so many enriching opportunities, the biggest shout-out must go to the children themselves – and here's why. Sometimes it is tempting to make examples of standout, extraordinary things, whereas what is often most impressive, is a daily commitment to our college values, rules and expectations. The vast majority of students here make good choices every day – whether it is linked to uniform, behaviour in and around college, effort in the classroom or kindness shown to others. We have so many students who are fantastically consistent with the small things; and very deserving of praise as a result.

Best Wishes



Mrs S Foster
Head of School
SFR/JGI

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 3 Jan	PTD
Wed 5 Jan	Start of Spring Term
Thurs 19 Jan	Y11 Parents Evening
Thurs 26 Jan	Y13 Parents Evening
Mon 30 Jan	SEN Coffee Morning
Wed 15 Feb	Y13 Parents Finance Talk
Fri 17 Feb	Y11 6 th Form Taster Day
<hr/>	
20-24 Feb	<u>HALF TERM</u>
<hr/>	
Mon 27 Feb	SEN Coffee Morning
Thurs 23 Mar	Y10 Parents Evening
Mon 27 Mar	SEN Coffee Morning
Thurs 30 Mar	Y12 Parents Evening
Fri 31 Mar	END OF SPRING TERM
<hr/>	
3-14 April	<u>EASTER</u>
<hr/>	
Mon 17 Apr	PTD
Tues 18 Apr	Students return
Thurs 20 April	Y9 Parents Evening
Thurs 27 Apr	Options evening
Fri 28 Apr	PTD
Mon 1 May	PH – May Day
Thurs 4 May	Local Elections (TBC)
Mon 22 May	SEN Coffee Morning
<hr/>	
29 May-2 June	<u>HALF TERM</u>
<hr/>	
Thurs 15 June	Y7 Parents Evening
Wed 21 June	Y10 Mock Interviews
Mon 26 June	SEN Coffee Morning
Thurs 29 June	Y8 Parents Evening
Fri 30 June	Sixth Form Induction
Fri 7 July	Sports Day
Mon 17 July	Y10 6 TH Form Taster Day
Mon 17 July	SEN Coffee Morning
Tues 25 July	END OF SUMMER TERM

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE COLLEGE

We have had a brilliant half term in the Catholic Life of the college. Students and staff continue to go above and beyond to live out our mission statement of 'inspiring hearts and minds with Christ at the centre of all we say and do'

Faith-filled and hopeful

These are the values that students have been living out this half term. They have been the focus of our acts of prayer and liturgy and our tutor time SAINT programme. This week students were reflecting on where they have shown these examples this half term.

Advent fundraising

Thank you for your donations of food and essentials that will support the Black country foodbank. We will update you in the new year with our total but thank you for supporting us. It really does make a difference to those who need it

Year 7 and 8 retreat days



We welcomed the Kenelm Youth Trust to college on the 6 and 7 December to lead a retreat day on the theme of 'Strong Towers- Christ at the Centre'. Students took part in a range of workshops and activities focusing on mental health and resilience. The day was filled with prayer, reflection and team-building tasks.



Celebrations of worship

This half term has also seen the celebration of our Year 10 and Sixth form masses. Students led one another in prayer and worship which included reading, singing and reflections. A big thank you to Fr Paul Edwards for giving his time to come and support the college. Students were incredibly reverent and respectful and were a real credit to themselves.

Lourdes Pilgrimage



Plans for our 2023 Lourdes pilgrimage are well underway! A group of 9 sixth formers need to raise over £5000 to journey on pilgrimage and work with sick pilgrims and other students from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. So far students have fundraised through face painting, our Christmas jumper day and cake sales. Thank you for all your support so far, sixth formers will write an update in the new year.

EXAMS INFORMATION

EXAMS POLICY

It is important for you to be aware of the 'Information for Candidates' document to sit exams. The (JCQ) Joint Council for Qualifications, provides information regarding coursework, examinations and non-examination assessments.

Teachers will remind Candidates but it is their responsibility to read it.

NO MOBILE PHONES OR WATCHES

Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone, even if switched off, or any watch, is a serious offence and can result in not only disqualification from the paper being sat but all other papers with that exam board.

It is malpractice and the examination boards are very determined this year to clamp down on this issue.

Please do not fall foul of this simple procedure. Hand devices in or leave at home.

EXTERNAL EXAMS IN SUMMER 2023

Exam timetables for Summer 2023 have now been released and are available to view on each individual examination board's website.

Should you be looking to book a holiday, it is important to note that ALL candidates have to be available for 'Contingency days' this is in the event that an exam has to be rearranged to due to unforeseen circumstances.

This day has been designated for Wednesday 28 June 2023 and all Candidates should be available for examinations up to and including this date.

JANUARY 2023 BTEC EXAMINATIONS

These will start Wed 11 January 2023 until the end of January.

If your Child is sitting any of the following they will have a timetable sent home with them before the end of term. Please keep this in a prominent safe place as a reminder to offer support.

Wed 11 Jan AM

Fitness Training and Programming - Sport

Thu 12 Jan AM

Dispute in Solving Civil Law - Law

Fri 13 Jan AM

Anatomy & Physiology - Sport.

Fri 13 Jan PM

Human Lifespan Development – H&SC

Mon 16 Jan AM

Applying the Law – Law / Working Health & Social Care – H&SC

Mon 16 Jan PM

Creating Systems to Manage Information Part A - IT

Tues 17 Jan AM

Creating Systems to Manage Information Part B - IT

Tues 17 Jan PM

Biology - Applied Science

Wed 18 Jan AM

Chemistry - Applied Science

Wed 18 Jan PM

Physics - Applied Science

Mon 23 Jan AM

Information Technology Systems – IT

Mon 30 Jan PM

Health & Wellbeing – H&SC

Tues 31 Jan PM

Promotion & Finance - Enterprise

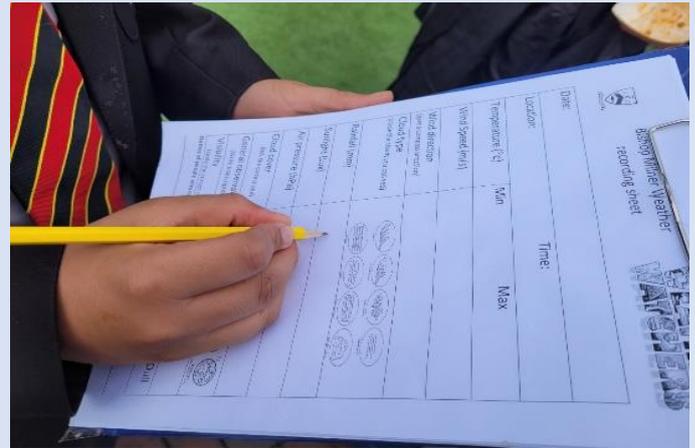


GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

WEATHER WATCHERS

Each week the Geography Department supports students in learning more about how we observe and record the weather.

Year 7 in the Autumn term are focusing on weather and climate in their lessons. On Friday lunchtimes students can participate in using weather instruments to record the weather on college campus. Their results are then displayed on a notice board in the college quad for all students to see. Whilst helping them to understand their Geography it is also encouraging them to improve their numeracy and literacy skills, teamwork and communication skills as they work together to create an accurate weather report.



STEWARDSHIP GROUP

This year in College the Geography Department has formed a group to take care of our college environment, with a focus on working towards creating a peace garden for students. The group meets once a week and has already decided on a plan for the garden and has planted some blubs for the spring.

To mark Remembrance Day the group created some crosses to encourage students to write their own remembrance messages to hang on a tree in the garden.

Other projects have included the creation of bug hotels to encourage wildlife into the garden and planting of herbs so that they can be used by our students and their families.

The group is open to anyone who wants to join and is always looking for donations of garden equipment or plants.

Future plans include the inclusion of a gallery where students can display their work

and quiet spaces for prayer and reflection.



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TO CARDING MILL VALLEY



On the 4 November GCSE and A Level Geography Students travelled to Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to complete their Rivers fieldwork in preparation for the Summer exams. Year 11 were asked to measure a range of river characteristics including velocity, width, depth and particle size and shape.

The weather was very kind to us and although being cold it was a bright and sunny day.

The A level students focused on investigating the infiltration rates of the soil and geology in the valley. Their aim was to understand how different factors influence the movement of water and potentially the link to flooding. They will use their results in their final coursework piece later in the year when they will also visit Himley Country Park.

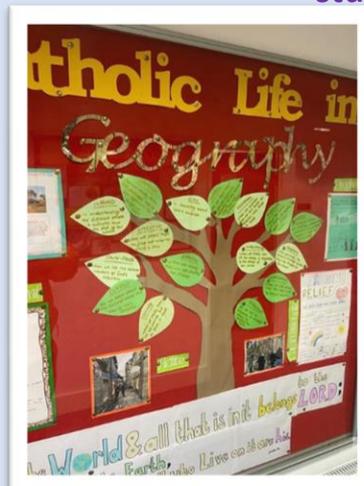
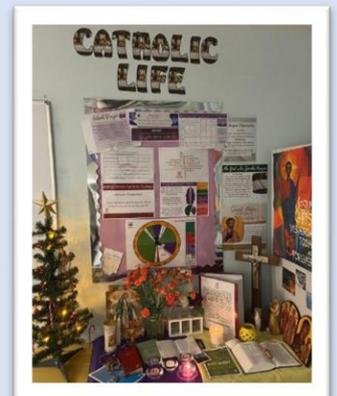


DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2023

The Duke of Edinburgh Award 2023 is to be launched to all our Y9 students.

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

A Sample of some of the brilliant displays around college as we celebrate Advent. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and students.



BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER ANTI-BULLYING MENTOR PROJECT



Our most recent Big Brother/Big Sister Anti-Bullying Mentor Project began on 22 November, with some superb Sixth Form Mentors already really helping some of our new Year 7 students.



NORMANDY, FRANCE TRIP SEPTEMBER 2022

On the Year 11 trip to France, Normandy, we experienced and viewed many fascinating locations; which were beneficial for our modern foreign language and history education. During our visit, we managed to visit some of the most exquisite places such as the Mémorial de Caen museum, Cinema 360, American Cemetery and much more!

It all started on the midnight. Everybody was summoned to the front gates of our school, where all teachers, and students, met to depart for the long journey to the Eurotunnel. And off we drove to explore France...



Eventually, we reached our first destination of Mémorial de Caen (museum of war and peace), and just by the outside building, everyone was awe-struck by the immense and grand structure. The inside allowed us to



further understand and appreciate the importance of soldiers who died in the brutal wars for us. Later on, we travelled to the Château du Baffy – where we were going to stay for the next two nights.

The next day, we visited many new places, starting with the cinema 360 – which expanded our knowledge of war and its effects on society; followed by a rather sentimental visit to the American Cemetery. An area filled with love, care and positivity enlightened and reinforced the idea of thankfulness to all Americans who sacrificed their lives for us, bringing everyone together like family.



This place was truly a captivating event, especially after the minutes silence everyone in the cemetery participated in – followed by the placement of the wreath in front of the main building, where everyone showed solemn respect and reverence. The early evening was spent in the beautiful City of Bayeux, along with a time to reflect and light candles in prayer at Bayeux Cathedral.

Finally, it came the time of the frogs' legs and snail appetisers! The bravest of the brave picked up the frogs' legs and took a bite to taste its amazing flavour – or not so amazing to some... Then, again, some courageously selected a snail shell, picked up a toothpick and dug their way into the snail. Some may say they enjoyed it, yet some disagree.



On the final day, we packed, left the Château and set off to visit our last location: the British and Commonwealth Cemetery, Bayeux. Here we laid a wreath on behalf of the College in gratitude for the sacrifices of so many. Once again, a mesmerising area of pure love captured everyone's attention due to the intricate designs of the gravestones, the calm atmosphere and the well-kept nature. This cemetery had been a sentimental but delightful way to end our trip, leaving our adventure on a lovely note.

sMaja Michno



Wild CATS
GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Play Football

ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Where Bishop Milner Catholic College
When Every Wednesday
Time 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Contact wildcats@sgufc.co.uk

Or just turn up on the day



HAMPERS FOR FATHER HUDSON'S CARE

Across our Multi Academy staff donated luxury items for Father Hudson's Care.

38 Hampers were made and delivered to the Charity in Coleshill.



WORKING ACROSS THE MAC

Super session with our Chaplaincy Teams planning and praying together. This is what belonging to a Catholic Family is all about.

Thanks for having us Stuart Bathurst!

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY HUB

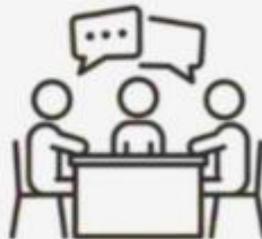


FREE TEA, COFFEE
& HOME MADE CAKES

SAFE & WARM PLACE
TO SOCIALISE



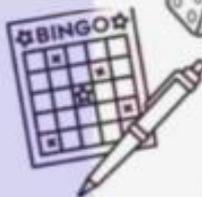
ACCESS
PERSONALISED
SUPOPRT AND ADVICE



CARE & FOOD
PACKAGES AVAILABLE



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES -
BINGO, QUIZ & GAMES
NIGHTS



Providing a safe
place to access
services, socialise
and receive
support



↓ Joins us on
Mondays at

The Lighthouse Centre
Salop Street
DY1 3AT
Every Monday 4pm-7pm

THE ART DEPARTMENT HAVE HAD A VERY BUSY TERM, WITH LOTS GOING ON BOTH IN SCHOOL AND ON TRIPS

ART DEPARTMENT WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER:

Well done to all the students who took part in our October lunchtime workshops.

Students decorated recycled food containers from the canteen to create plant pots with designs inspired by African patterns. A Fantastic flower display using the Pan African colours was created as part of our Black History Month Celebrations.



NOVEMBER:

As part of 'Anti Bullying' month, the Art department joined forces with the M.F.L department to run a series of lunchtime badge making workshops. Students created a selection of anti-bullying badges in a wide range of languages.

DECEMBER:

As part of our Advent celebrations, Year 10 students enjoyed making some fantastic wreaths.



WALKING TOUR OF DUDLEY AND THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM



On Wednesday 5 October, Year 10 and Year 12 Art students walked to the Black Country Living Museum via the Priory Ruins and Dudley Zoo collecting drawings and photographs for their Sense of Place project. Although we encountered torrential rain at times, the students were undeterred and had a great day out. Whilst at the Black Country Museum they all took part in a Canal Art workshop, painting tiles with designs reminiscent of those seen on the barges.



PITT RIVERS MUSEUM OXFORD

On Wednesday 12 October, it was the turn of Year 11 and Year 12 to go on a trip to inspire their current art projects. This time to Oxford and the Pitt Rivers Museum. Students were fascinated by a cornucopia of ethnographic treasures from shrines to shrunken heads, and other artefacts from around the world. The Pitt Rivers Museum cares for one of the world's great collections of anthropology and world archaeology. Coming from all corners of the globe, and all periods in human history, the collection not only includes great cultural treasures, but also tens of thousands of everyday objects which illustrate the diversity of cultural solutions to the same basic problems that we all face as human beings.



We also spent a little time in the Oxford University Natural History Museum, marvelling over the dinosaur bones and other natural history specimens.



RECYCLED PLASTIC POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Year 9 students got creative during November making poppies from upcycled plastic bottles.



NEW YEAR NEW START

**FREE Careers Event for 14—19 year olds (up to 25 for SEND with an EHCP)
and NEET young people**

Saturday 21 January 2023 9.30am—2pm

Explore and discover your next career with the help of Training/Apprenticeship Providers, Employers, Colleges, Universities and Connexions Sandwell Careers Advisers.

This is an eventbrite ticket only event

Go to our website www.connexionssandwell.co.uk to book your ticket.

At West Bromwich Albion Football Club, The Hawthorns, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich B71 4LF



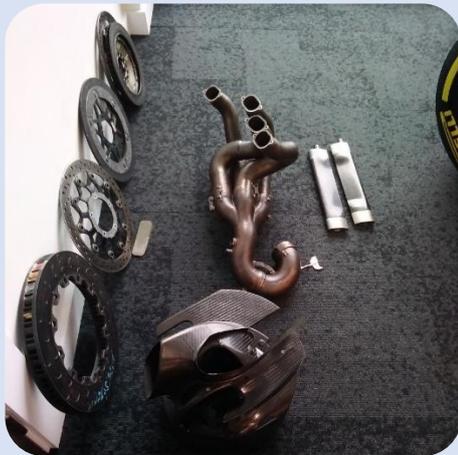
SILVERSTONE TRIP – 17 NOVEMBER

By Ruby Lawrence and Numa Limbu

On Thursday 17 November, 45 students and 4 staff went on a coach to Silverstone, Northamptonshire on a STEM trip. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

We got to experience a STEM workshop as well as a walk around the heritage track before lunch and then a guided tour around the interact active museum with the day finishing in the 3D cinema.

In the workshop we learnt about the different types of tyres and when they are used in different seasons, we even got to feel the texture of them and the size difference. We were also able to look at and handle different parts of a formula one car including the drivers helmets and racing suit. Some of use even got to try them on!



In the museum they had lots of different cars from different eras and we were even allowed to sit and pose in one. There was also photos and information from when the race track used to be an airfield.

A highlight of the day was the VR experience. We all sat in a cinema like dome with the screen all around us and there was wind to imitate we were in the racing car. We experienced a fastest lap and it felt very authentic.

And after all of the excitement we were able to buy stuff from the gift shop there were cars, mugs, sweets, t shirts and hats.

The best part about the whole day was when we were able to see the test cars going around the track is was so cool. The amount of detail and decals on the outside of the cars and motorbikes was spectacular.



Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas from West Midlands Police

For further advice call **101** or visit www.west-midlands.police.uk

Contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on

Christmas Safety Guide

All you need to know to

CAREERS – WINTER 2022

Goodbye 2022 Hello 2023

What a start to a term we have had. We have continued to deliver our promise to our students to give them an outstanding programme of careers and employer led activities from Career Talks to Employer led projects to Career Conventions and University trips.

What's been happening this term



Employers from across the country have been involved in various talks inspiring our students to look at jobs in the future, in media and finance.

In October we held our annual Careers Convention with over 20 delegates from Universities, Training providers, Apprenticeship providers, Armed Forces and Public Services

UCAS is almost over for another year with already a high number of offers for our high achieving sixth formers coming through each day. 25 January 6pm, being the deadline. We know our students are going to be moving on to some brilliant opportunities in the future.

The Time Travelling Rock Machine

We were extremely lucky in November to host the Keith Palmer lecture in collaboration with Birmingham University & The Lapworth Museum, with an inspirational talk from Dr Anjana Khatwa, hosted by Time Teams Professor Alice Roberts – over 200 students got to hear about Dr Khatwa's career pathway into Geology & how she connects rocks to understanding the world around us.



One to One Careers Interviews

Almost every Y11 student has now had a one to one impartial careers interview with the Sandwell Connexions team. All feedback will be given out at Parents Evening in January.

Coming up next term ...

National Apprenticeship week 2023

National Apprenticeship Week aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country. The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships will shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country.

The week will also recognise how employers of all sizes have stepped up to the challenge during this unprecedented time. We have lots of exciting plans for the week to help our students understand more about Apprenticeships and the opportunities available to them. If you would like to get a head start learning about Apprenticeships check out the top 100 employers who offer Apprenticeships here: <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/top-employers>

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2023

6-11 March. Our theme this year is Careers within the curriculum, helping students make the connections between their subject and future careers.



All students year 8 and above will have the opportunity to create their Unifrog account and have completed their interest and personality quizzes in prep for supporting their GCSE pathway choices.



ASPIRE TO HE



In February we will be taking a group of Y10 & 11 to Wolverhampton University to take part in a Campus Experience Day.

SPEAKERS TRUST

Will be joining us in March to work with Y10 students in delivering a fantastic session on Public Speaking confidence boosting and resilience.





On 20 March our Y10 students are due to go out on Work Experience Placements.

Below are 10 benefits to work experience. Placement letters are due back the second week of January.

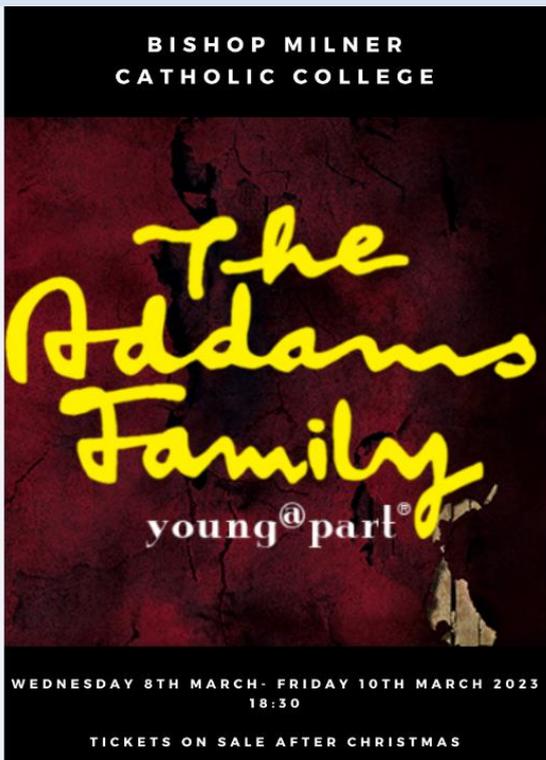
- ✚ An understanding of the work environment and what employers expect of their workers
- ✚ An opportunity to explore possible career options
- ✚ Increased self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence
- ✚ Increased motivation to continue study and/or undertake further training
- ✚ A better understanding of how the school curriculum can help prepare young people for work
- ✚ An introduction to workplace recruitment practices
- ✚ Enhances opportunities for part-time and casual employment
- ✚ The opportunity to include the employer's work experience evaluation in future job and course applications
- ✚ Opportunities to develop work-related competencies and acquire skills
- ✚ The chance to 'try out' a workplace.

For more information on anything careers related please contact Ms Wilkins

Email: swilkins@sbca.co.uk

If you are an employer and would like to link with the school in any of our career projects please get in touch. We are always keen to hear from anyone willing to support.

Performing Arts news



It has been a fantastic term in Performing Arts! The school show rehearsals are in full swing: music led by Miss Gullick, the directing is well underway and some helpful year 11 and 9 students have been working on choreography with the dancers! A real team effort!

The cast have been rehearsing at least twice a week since the end of October! Their commitment, behaviours and talents have been excellent and Miss Gullick and I are so proud of them all.



In January we will be releasing information detailing how you can purchase tickets. They will be £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for concessions. We look forward to seeing you all there and supporting the students!

Mrs Yeubrey

Rehearsals and teams

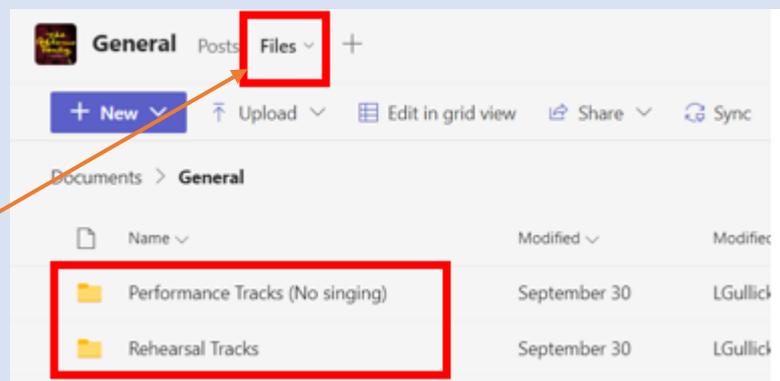
We have a cast teams page that all of the dancers and actors have been added to. Information about rehearsals is updated on the page regularly.

Learning lines, lyrics and choreography!

The students have been asked to be off scripts after Christmas for scenes 1-10 of the play.

They also need to rehearse singing the songs they have learned with Miss Gullick.

All of the rehearsal tracks are on teams, which can be found in the **files** section.



Key dates and important information

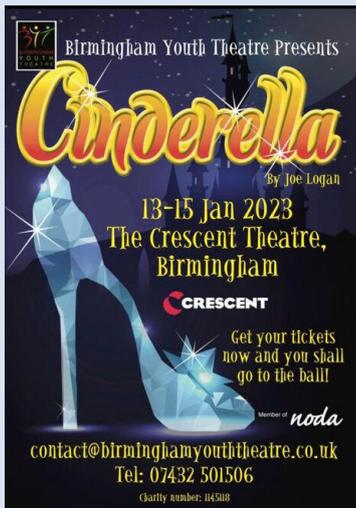
Ocean at The End of The Lane- Theatre trip for year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students

Thursday 2nd February 2023 during the school day 12:00pm-5:30pm



Cinderella Pantomime- Birmingham Youth Theatre at The Crescent Theatre for all cast members of the Addams family

Friday 13th January 2023 5:30pm- 22:30pm



Bishop Milner Drama Department Extra curricular time table



	Lunch time	After school
Monday	Year 7 Drama club	
Tuesday		Whole school show rehearsals 3:30-4:30pm
Wednesday		
Thursday		Whole school show rehearsals 3:30-4:30pm
Friday	Bishop Milner drama group year 8-13	

	Lunchtime	After School [3:20 - 4:20]
Monday	Mass Practice Dedicated practice time for mass	
Tuesday	Choir Open to all	Show Practise
Wednesday	Keyboard Club Open to all keyboard players	Band Practise Open to pupils with experience playing an instrument and/or rock bands
Thursday		Show Practise
Friday	GCSE Sessions Dedicated GCSE time for coursework / theory	

Anti Bullying awareness month

A group of year 7 drama students directed and performed in an educational piece of drama focusing on issues surrounding bullying. The young students created an engaging and thought-provoking story line of young girl 'Max' who experienced bullying and therefore started to bully others. Well done for all of their hard work and dedication to raising awareness!

