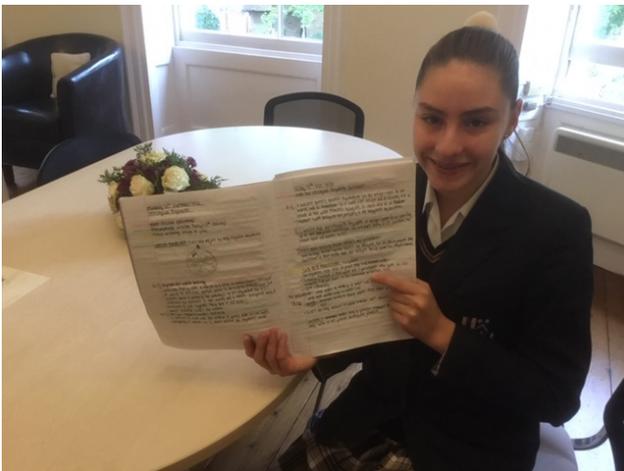




## From the Headteacher...

As we come to the end of the first half of the Autumn term, I would like to thank all of the parents for your support and cooperation in reinforcing our protocols and routines on a daily basis. The concerted efforts of all the staff have ensured that the curriculum has been delivered well, despite the restrictions in place. The pupils have been a delight to teach and have responded positively to the changing demands placed on them.

On Monday, I had the pleasure of presenting commendations to five pupils in Year 9 for their excellent effort in French, and for Sofia in Year 9 who achieved a certificate for her positive start to the Religious Education course and her excellent effort.



I hope that the Year 7 Pastoral Evening and the Junior Parents' Evenings went smoothly for you this week and enabled you to see how your son or daughter has settled well into their new class. We are delighted with the way our new joiners have re-adjusted to a new environment.

## Mission Statement

Through faith and a broad education, Bishop Challoner School strives to develop and nurture each child's unique talents. To Live, Love and Learn like Christ and fulfil their true potential in an ever changing world.



For anyone who has planned or is considering an overseas holiday during half term, please note that the FCO is advising British nationals against all non-essential international travel for an indefinite period. The latest guidance on social distancing also recommends avoiding all non-essential domestic travel and use of public transport, where possible. Further information can be found at [Gov.uk Advice](https://www.gov.uk)

I would like to wish you a restful and safe half term break and we will see you all on Monday 2nd November.



Paula Anderson – Headteacher  
[@Challoner\\_head](https://twitter.com/Challoner_head)



# Black History Month

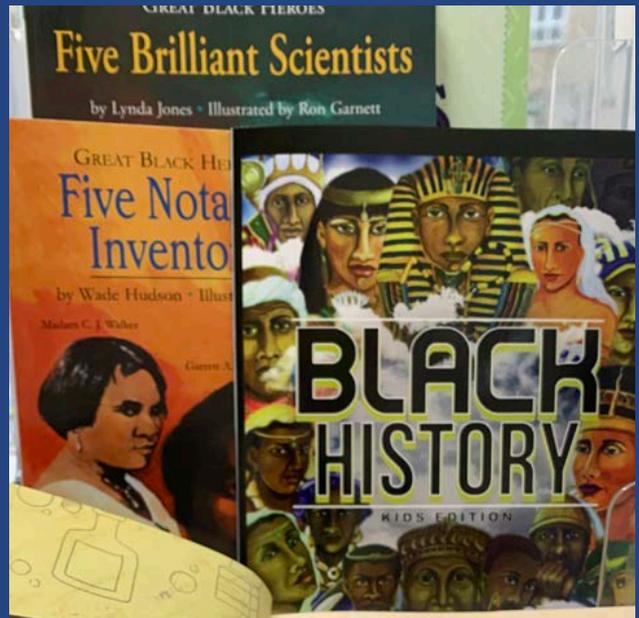
We have some wonderful books in the science department about brilliant male and female scientists. One inspirational female scientist was called Bessie Coleman. Bessie Coleman's mastery of mechanics, technology, and aviation fueled her quest to empower African Americans in the air and on the ground.

Bessie was the first black woman with a pilot's license, and she used her talent as an aviatrix stunt performer to create change.

Garrett A. Morgan was an amazing inventor. Garrett invented the gas mask in 1912 and received a gold medal as first prize for his invention. In later years, the United States government made a few changes to the gas mask and this was used during World War I to protect soldiers from poisonous gas. Many lives were saved thanks to Mr Morgan.

We have had an amazing week in Eco club and science learning all about inspirational scientists.

Miss Ruston  
Eco-club Leader / Science Technician

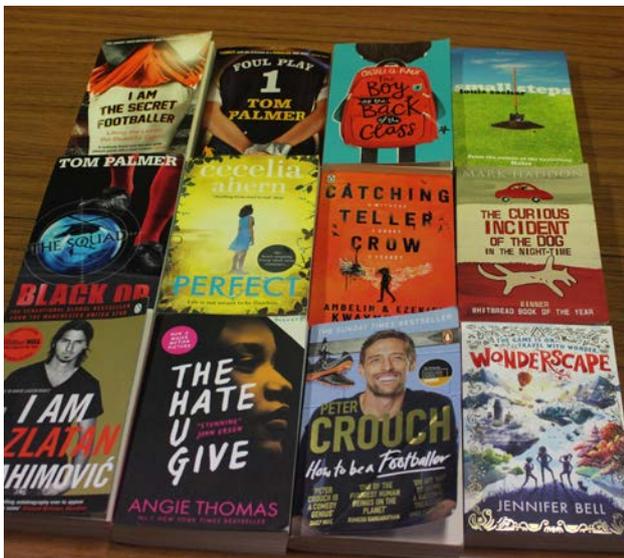


# What are you reading?

On Friday 2nd October pupils in the whole Senior School took part in their weekly reading session in form time. The range of reading material was inspiring, and it was lovely to see such a rich selection of material. Unwinding on Fridays with a great book is becoming a firm tradition across the school. Mrs Beevers shared a selection of novels and autobiographies which can be seen below and looks forward to discussing some of the emerging BAME global writers to celebrate October's Black History Month.

My favourite recent tween novel was 'Holes'. Please let me know if you have read the sequel and send me your views.

Mrs Beevers  
English teacher



# Fun in Languages.....

Envoyez à tous! - Send to All!

Year 9 have had a most pleasing week in French. They performed extremely well in their end of unit assessment showing that they can write well on the topics of film and TV programmes. In addition, they demonstrated a sound knowledge of vocabulary and structures as they executed a dictation task in which they had to remember as much of the original text in French as possible and write it accurately. They particularly enjoyed the 'Send to All!' task in which they had to respond to a text message about Donald Trump! They had to think about what they could write as a reply that would enthuse and entertain their classmates and impress me with their French. Michael McIntyre would be very proud of their efforts - as am I!

Bravo la classe!

Year 12 have been busy learning grammar, executing a range of tasks to explore different topics and themes. They had a nice surprise when they made the discovery that Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper is fluent in French and studied in France. The students watched a riveting interview with him speaking in French to a renowned French presenter and were inspired to simply speak the language!

Allez, les filles - communiquez!

Ms Napier  
French Teacher



## What languages do you speak?...

As part of celebrating cultural diversity during Black History Month pupils in year 6 have carried out a survey about who speaks other languages. The results are as follows:

Turkish - 3; Yoruba - 3; Filipino - 1; Spanish - 1; Sinhalese - 1; German - 2; Hindi - 2; Gaelic - 2; Urdu - 1; Welsh - 1; Brazilian Portuguese - 1

Miss Prieto  
Year 6 Class Teacher



## JUNIOR NEWS

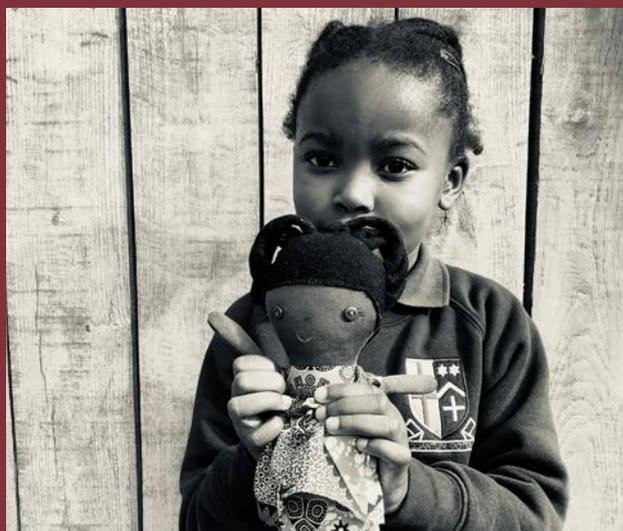
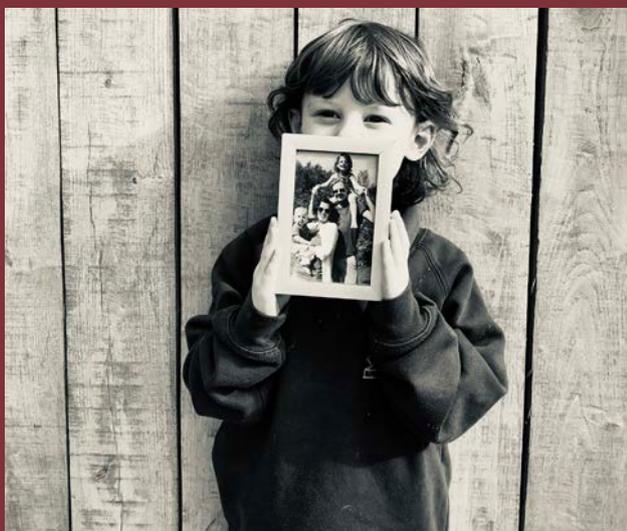
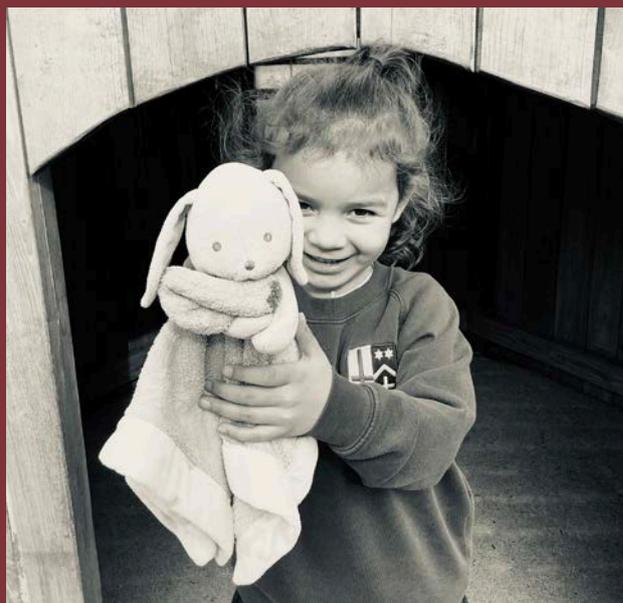
# Marvellous Me

For the 'Every object tells a story' project, children were invited to bring a small object or photograph to school and tell us its meaning or its story. These objects related to their own history or culture or even an heirloom.

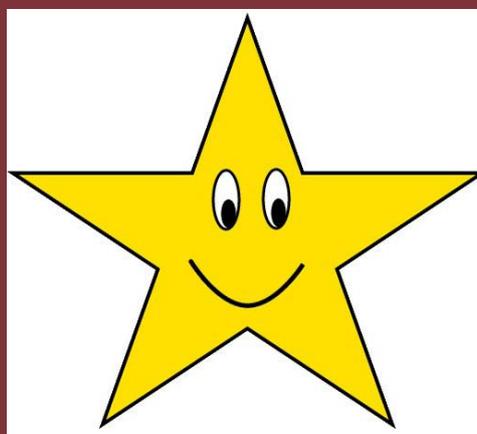
For inspiration, we focused on the work of Nigerian photographer Seydou Keita. He took (in the 1930s) photographs of children and adults with objects that were special to them.

The children loved discussing and showing their personal belongings to the rest of the class.

Mr Peck  
Reception Class Teacher



## JUNIOR STARS



Well done to all our stars.....

Reception - Carson, for his excellent effort in phonics and handwriting.

Year 1 - Karl, for producing an amazing Autumn poster.

Year 2 - George, for working very hard at everything and his kindness and enthusiasm are appreciated by everyone.

Year 3 - Deanna, for excellent effort in mathematics; especially working hard with her times tables.

Year 4 - Kosi, for excellent work on negative numbers.

Year 5 - Megan, for excellent behaviour for learning at all times.

Year 6 - Iona, for working so hard on her homework and always being engaged and ready to learn in class.

Ms Barker  
Head of KS1 and KS2



## JUNIOR SCIENCE



On Thursday afternoon, Miss Ruston, from the senior science department, visited year 4 to extend their learning on the digestive system.

Miss Ruston led a demonstration using tights, potato mashers and a wide range of other resources to show how the digestive system worked. Year 4 impressed Miss Ruston with their knowledge and use of scientific vocabulary. It was a rather messy demonstration but allowed the pupils to clearly see the processes involved in digestion.

Thank you, Miss Ruston.

Ms Hoyles  
Year 4 Class Teacher



## SPORT

Congratulations to Daniel and Femi in year 7 who have been selected for the U12 Prep School Football Team.

They attended a trial on a rainy day at Merrist College, Guildford, in which they were competing for 16 spots against some of the strongest footballers in the South East.

The PE department and the school are extremely proud of Daniel and Femi and all pupils who tried their best in the trial

Mr Snadden  
PE Teacher.



# Black History Month

In the Nursery the children have been learning and taking part in a variety of fun activities. They have been playing traditional African instruments and dancing to Bob Marley. They have been learning about Windrush and listened to an inspiring story by Floella Benjamin called 'Coming to England'. The children shared their dreams for their futures after listening to Martin Luther King's famous and moving speech.

We were also delighted to see some parents getting involved by sending in their videos using the theme Black Heroes. Staff and children loved watching them.

Ms Scicluna  
Named Second EYFS Practitioner



# Year 5 & 6 Retreat: 'You are wonderfully made'

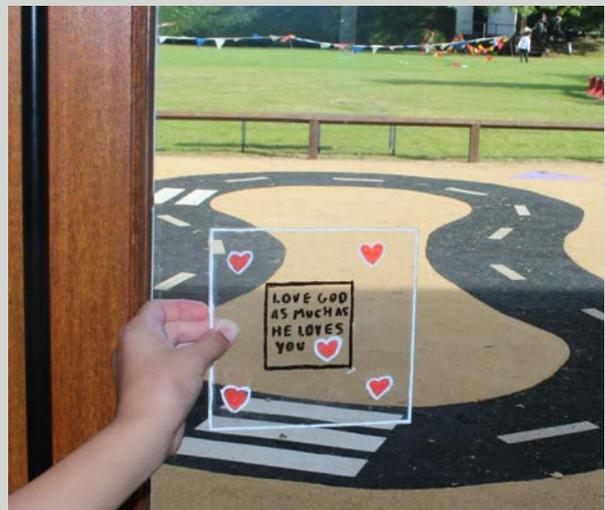
On Wednesday 7th October, we had an in-house retreat day for years 5 & 6. Ordinarily this retreat would take place at Aylesford and would be run by Southwark Catholic Youth Services. However, due to the current restrictions we ran the retreat in-house. The theme for the retreat was 'You are wonderfully made' which is a verse from Psalm 139.

We began our retreat in the Chapel and spent some time thinking about the experiences we have had since the pandemic struck, both the negatives and positives. It was a good opportunity for pupils to get in touch with their feelings. Pupils spoke about many positive experiences, including spending more time with their parents, learning new skills and becoming more independent. We also spoke about some of the more difficult experiences including separation and loss. We then thought about God and the challenges that we have and how we need to continue to pray and worship in such circumstances. Finally, we thought about St Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:20 'wherever there is evil grace abounds.' This situation has forced us to realise that we are not in control of the future and that we need God and other people in our lives. How God's grace has been made manifest in many ways, particularly through the NHS and all of those frontline workers who have risked for others.

Pupils were also reintroduced to Bishop Challoner, whom the school is named after, and their House Saints, St Edmund, St Patrick, St Denis and St Michael. Some very interesting discussions took place about them, which also led to the legend about Oliver Cromwell's head spending a night at Bishop Challoner, when it was a hotel (not sure how this could be the case when he died in 1659) and Shortlands House was only built in the 1800s. Still it made for an interesting conversation!

During the day pupils were given the opportunity to explore their creativity. A number of pupils opted to do dramas, including the 'Good Samaritan' and a drama called 'Fried Chicken' about not being judgemental, (you'll have to ask the pupils) which was very popular. Pupils also designed their own posters and raps. I was very impressed by the acting skills of our pupils and their wholehearted involvement in each of the activities.

One of the highlights of the retreat was the opportunity for pupils to design their own stained glass windows. Pupils considered all that they had learnt during the day and made some very striking designs. We ended the retreat in the Chapel with a prayer and meditation on the wonder and uniqueness of each of our pupils.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank year 5 & 6 for making the retreat so special.

I would also like to thank Mr Hickman and the site team who set up the library and all the staff who helped, including Mr Fitzgerald, Mr Coultard, Ms Hart, Ms Prieto and Ms Barker. I would especially like to thank Mr McArthur who prepared the perspex squares for the stained glass.

I invite you to pray with Psalm 139 which describes the how 'You are wonderfully made.'

Mr Lohan  
School Chaplain



## YEAR 5 AND 6 RETREAT

Psalm 139: 1-18, 23,24

Lord, you examine me and know me,

You know when I sit and when I rise, you understand my thoughts from afar.

You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of my conduct.

A word is not yet on my tongue before you, Lord, know all about it.

You fence me in, behind and in front, you have laid your hand upon me.

Such amazing knowledge is beyond me, a height to which I cannot attain.

Where shall I go to escape your spirit? Where shall I flee from your presence?

If I scale the heavens you are there, if I lie flat beneath the earth, there you are.

If I speed away on the wings of the dawn, if I dwell beyond the ocean,

even there your hand will be guiding me, your right hand holding me fast.

I will say, 'Let the darkness cover me, and the night wrap itself around me,'

even darkness to you is not dark, and night is as clear as the day.

You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb.

For so many marvels I thank you; I am wonderfully made, and all your works are wonders. You knew me through and through,

my being held no secrets from you, when I was being formed in secret, textured in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes could see my embryo. In your book all my days were inscribed, every one that was fixed is there.

How hard for me to grasp your thoughts, how many, God, there are!

If I count them, they are more than the grains of sand; if I come to an end,

I am still with you...

God, examine me and know my heart, test me and know my concerns. Make sure that I am not on my way to ruin, and guide me on the road of eternity.

Amen

Mr Lohan

School Chaplain



## HARVEST FESTIVAL



On Thursday, 8th October we celebrated our Harvest Festival Day. Our festival took place online and our opening hymn was 'For the Beauty of the Earth' by John Rutter. The hymn celebrates the wonderful world that God has given us and the crowning glory of his creation, the human family. This fits very well with the new Encyclical by Pope Francis Fratelli Tutti on fraternity and social friendship, which invites us to recognise that each person is a member of one human family and should therefore have equal rights and opportunities.

During the assembly we also thought about how God entrusted the world to human beings as stewards and our responsibility to look after the earth not only for ourselves but future generations. Our scripture passage was from John's Gospel, Chapter 10: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' We considered how when Jesus said these words he meant that everyone without exception should have the opportunity to flourish, regardless of creed, colour or race.

Our school has been very charitable in its endeavours and we recognised some of the ways that we support others, for example, Bromley Food Bank, which many staff, pupils and families very generously support each year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who so generously give.

October is also Black History Month and we thought about the ways that we can show our solidarity with others. We considered the quote from Martin Luther King: 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter' and how we are called to challenge inequality and discrimination. During our assembly we prayed for all those who experience injustice in their lives. We also prayed for those who have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus. The month of October is also the month of the Holy Rosary and we concluded our assembly by asking Mary the Mother of Jesus to intercede for us.

Mr Lohan  
School Chaplain



## ONE LAST THING...

Reports for years 7 to 13 are now available to download. Please access your My Child at School account to download your son or daughter's school report.

### *America's Greatest Farmer*

You'll never hear of a man who worked harder  
Than that famous American, George Washington Carver

Born a slave, he learned to how to read  
And became a wonderful student indeed

What interested him, what he wanted to know  
Were the lives of plants and things that grow

He became a teacher and a writer, too  
And his inventions for farms would astonish you

Three hundred foods that use peanuts a little  
Like peanut butter, peanut oil, peanut brittle

Peanut lotion, peanut bars, even peanut honey  
And he never sold his ideas for money

He wanted farmers to use well their land  
And he was happy to just lend them a hand



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

 [SEE FULL CALENDAR](#)

Monday

2 NOVEMBER

- Holy Souls Liturgy

Wednesday

11 NOVEMBER

- Remembrance Day
- Year 11 Mental Health Workshop (1)

Monday

16 NOVEMBER

- Flu vaccinations

Wednesday

18 NOVEMBER

- Year 11 Mental Health Workshop (2)

Tuesday

15 DECEMBER

- Virtual Carol Service

Wednesday

16 DECEMBER

- End of term, 12 noon

