



# BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL



## Alumni News

WINTER ISSUE 2016



# Message from the Headteacher

On the 2nd July we were delighted to welcome former pupils and staff at Bishop Challoner School's reunion. We had an excellent turnout and it was fascinating to hear the many stories, rekindle fond memories and to see how much the school had changed since their last visit. Everyone who has attended Bishop Challoner over the years will have contributed to its history in some way and we of course were delighted that they had returned to be part of our future.

We are very proud of the strong sense of community that exists amongst the former pupils with one another and with the school. Their commitment was reflected in the long journeys that some of them had made in order to be with us. The excellent attendance from our diverse group of alumni bears testament to the lasting attachment forged between Bishop Challoner and its pupils, both past and present.

Many have now gained amazing careers and are an inspiration to our present pupils. It is important that we continue to foster the links between past and present pupils to encourage them to attain their goals and ambitions. I would like to encourage you to join our alumni and be part of its rich tradition of history.

*Mrs Paula Anderson*



# School Inspection

In November 2016, Bishop Challoner School was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. We are pleased to announce that we met all the Compliance standards with no action points. The Quality of Pupils' Academic and other Achievements has been graded as 'Good' and the Quality of the Pupils' Personal Development has been graded as 'Excellent'.

Here are some extracts from the report:

*"Pupils take an active approach to their learning outside of the classroom. Their attitudes to homework are positive, and the tasks that they are set engage and develop their learning".*

*"Children in EYFS display excellent attitude to learning. They are independent learners who are keen to explore their environment. They display resilience and a willingness to work collaboratively. Junior school pupils have outstanding attitudes to learning".*

*"Pupils demonstrate high levels of self-discipline; they move around the school site in a disciplined and mature manner. In lessons they engage quickly with learning activities and sustain excellent levels of concentration due to the high expectations from staff".*

*"Pupils throughout the school have a highly developed spiritual understanding. In interview they expressed their appreciation of the spiritual aspects of life such as the power of prayer for others; their appreciation of the Catholicity of the school permeates every aspect of its life".*

*"The culturally diverse pupil body respects each member of the community, and pupils treat each other with great kindness around the school".*

*"Pupils' personal commitment to the school and the local community is very strong, they are beacons for the school in the community".*

A full copy of the ISI Inspection Report is available on the school website [www.bishopchallonerschool.com](http://www.bishopchallonerschool.com).

# Autumn Term Update



## *Great GCSE Results 2016*

Results at Bishop Challoner School have continued to improve this year, with 92% of pupils achieving at least 5 A\*-C grades (73% including Maths and English Language).

Biology, Chemistry, Latin, Physics and Spanish all scored 100% A\*-C grades.

Headteacher, Paula Anderson said, 'Our pupils have achieved some excellent results and we are very proud indeed. With hard work, dedication and commitment our pupils are able to succeed'.

## *Outdoor Learning Environment*

We are delighted with our new infant playground, recently completed in October 2016. It has been developed in a safe, fenced area and contains various play equipment and educational games, all specifically designed for our children to foster and enhance their learning.

We want our children to be happy and to have fun by encompassing many things and outdoor play provides an important environment to foster brain development, motor skills, and social and cognitive development.



## *A Level Results 2016*

This year, 93 per cent of A level grades were A\*-E grades. Our students gained 82% A\*-C grades with seven subjects achieving 100% A\*-C grades, namely; Chemistry, Dance, French, History, Geography, Mathematics and Physics.

Our Year 13s progressed to a variety of prestigious universities to study a range of courses including; Brighton to study Environmental Science, Brunel University, Greenwich to study Building Surveying, Hull to read Biomedical Science, Laban to pursue Dance, Nottingham to read Architectural & Environmental Engineering and Warwick university to study French with History as well as French with Japanese.



# Reflections

## *Peter May*



It was a real pleasure to attend the recent Alumni reunion at Bishop Challoner. The School has always had such a special place in my working life. Meeting so many former pupils made for a very happy occasion. It was clear that those who came did so with affection; they were glad to see each other and former members of staff, and to express surprise at the changes that had been made.

Challoner has many advantages over bigger and more prestigious establishments. It is small, intimate, all pupils are well-known to staff who manage to get the best out of boys and girls. Staff turnover is low and teachers are long serving. All this makes for security and certainty. This leads to a sense of family. It was good to hear that several of the past pupils were sending their own children to Bishop Challoner School.

I could point to several incidents that were special in my 27 years of service but the one that stands out was the case of a boy with hearing in one ear - a distinct drawback in Oral A level French! On the morning of the publication of A level results I came in to find that against all the odds this boy had gained a grade that allowed him to go to University, which he did, getting Joint Honours in French and German at Goldsmith's. This is the sort of success that Challoner engenders.

I've been retired over 20 years and on a tour of the buildings I was struck by the amount of investment that must have taken place. The classrooms and labs were well-furnished and well-maintained. There was clearly a pride in the place. New buildings had been erected which fitted in with the old; the original was well up to modern standards. I feel that the current head, Mrs Anderson, respects the old while using the new. I am sure that Challoner is in safe hands.

### *Francis & Bernadette Mohan*

In September 1978, Bernadette and I took up our posts at Bishop Challoner School, Francis in the Senior School as Head of Latin, and Bernadette (Miss Davenport) as Teacher of Junior 1. Bernadette was from Stoke-on-Trent, and was just starting her teaching career. Francis was from Weston-Super-Mare and had just returned from a gap year working in hotels in Europe. It was on the beautiful staircase, in the old part of the school, that we met for the first time. We married in May 1980.

The Senior and Junior staff rooms at that time were separate but the overall atmosphere among the staff was extremely sociable, helped by a number of factors. Firstly, Charles Sciberras would invite and cajole all staff to attend his famous theatre trips. As a result, Francis and Bernadette's first date was in the company of a large number of schoolboys and staff at a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Bromley Little Theatre. Secondly, a young music teacher, Miss Sane, announced that there would be a school production of the musical 'Oliver!' Bernadette was to play the piano, while Francis directed. Thirdly, several key members of staff, Lizzie Cutler and John Studley in the Junior School, and Dave Shaw and Peter Newsham in the Senior School, were very sociable and great organisers.

Visiting Bishop Challoner for the reunion brought back memories of the happiest period of our lives, when we were starting out as teachers, as husband and wife and also as parents. Bernadette left work in 1981 for the birth of our first child, James. All four children were born in Bromley and in 1987, we had the honour of using the school chapel for the service, and the dining hall for the reception, for the Christening of our fourth child, Timothy. One year later we left Bromley, to start a new life in Worcestershire. Revisiting the school also brought back vivid memories of Mr. Nee, not just of his authority and strictness, but also of his immense personal kindness and generosity to us as we started our lives together 38 years ago.



# July 2016 Alumni Reception

Head pupils past and present:  
Celine, Tom, Jack Lynch, Lance Meade, John Fuller







# In focus

## *Jack Lynch*



My name is Jack Lynch and back in 2011 I was Head Student of Bishop Challoner. I started at the school back in 2003 and from my first day I knew Challoner was the right place for me. There was an unmistakable culture of this being a school dedicated to not just achieving academic results but developing individuals and allowing them to thrive. I was dyslexic when I started at Challoner and through the schools culture, alongside incredible pastoral care, by the time I left I had improved beyond belief. Throughout my 8 years at the school I grew in to a mature, happy and independent young man. It would sound a cliché to say my school days were some of the best days of my life but they truly were. I have such happy memories of Challoner and enjoy visiting every now and then to see how it is developing.

Since leaving the school I have graduated with a BSc in Social Psychology from Loughborough University before going on to pursue a career in sport. I am now studying for an MSc at St Mary's University and working as a full time strength and conditioning coach. I work a number of athletes from junior to senior and from club level all the way to national level. I have been lucky enough to be doing my dream job and I love it every day. Through Challoner I gained the confidence and drive to pursue my dreams and not to accept anything less.

I now work with young athletes and see them going through the same changes I did. My role is more than just a coach. I know, first hand, the power of incredible teachers. Those adult figures in our lives who shape who we are; who truly inspire us and create memories that stay with us for a lifetime. My aim is to be that person for each of my young athletes and instil in them that confidence to make ambitious goals, reach for the highest level and watch them leave the programme with not only incredible sporting skills but an ambition for everything they do.

Compared to many other alumni of this great school, I must appear still so young and I am. I am only just starting my career but I know that with a great foundation there are no limits to what you can do. That is what Challoner is so great at. Building a strong foundation that is essential for all of us to grow and daring us to do our very best.

# Getting involved

## *Jonathan Britto*

Jonathan Britto is Consultant Plastic and Craniofacial surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. Particular interests include surgical access and reconstruction for the care of children's craniofacial cancers, and orbitopalpebral surgery for congenital difference. He is a medical advisor for the charity Facial Palsy UK, and prior to a career move to consultancy at Great Ormond Street, held a consultant post in adult head and neck reconstruction and the restoration of adult facial paralysis.

Current clinical and research interests include the management of paediatric hypertelorism, orbital hypoplasia in craniofacial dysostosis syndromes, and the molecular biology of Crouzon Syndrome.

Jonathan is one of the community of reconstructive plastic surgeons who specialises in the management of paediatric head and neck and craniofacial problems, working within larger multiprofessional teams. A vision to make a lasting and positive difference to people's lives has been rewarded with many long-term patient and client relationships – an important and valued aspect of Jonathan's work.

Jonathan's private practice is based in Harley Street, London, where he offers a range of reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, specialising in the delivery of natural aesthetic outcomes in a caring and discreet environment.

Jonathan is proud to have been a pupil at Bishop Challoner School, and wishes the current student body, staff and team a prosperous New Year ahead.



*'It was a real pleasure to visit Bishop Challoner School for the Prize Giving, Summer 2016. It brought many memories of past times and the beginnings of enduring friendships – the sure sign of a happy education and childhood! I was much honoured to be asked to contribute, and I was met with a happy, eager, and enthusiastic pupil body, that, judging by the speeches made and prizes awarded, is ready to take on the world and make a contribution. It was a very pleasurable day, and I thank you for the invitation'*



To support the school with your time and professional knowledge, please contact us via the following:

Tel : 020 8290 9546

Email: [alumni@bcsweb.co.uk](mailto:alumni@bcsweb.co.uk)

Twitter: [@challoner\\_head](https://twitter.com/challoner_head)

Membership: [bishopchallonerschool.com/132/alumni](https://bishopchallonerschool.com/132/alumni)