“Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well”

The Venerable Bishop Richard Challoner

Headmaster: Mr S Maher BA (Hons.) PGCE
Welcome from the Headmaster

Richard Challoner is a school that is true to its Catholic ethos and seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Challoner is a truly inclusive community that endeavours to develop every pupil so that they fulfill their God-given potential.

Allied to a commitment to seek academic excellence and outstanding results, is a commitment to wider-curricular events through our extensive House programme, as well as a whole school programme of productions, concerts, exhibitions and inter-school sports fixtures.

There is a friendly atmosphere of shared endeavour and good humour that exists between the students and the staff. These relationships are based on an ethos of mutual respect and often developed on one of the numerous trips that take place each year.

We believe in a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that student choice is not limited and students are encouraged to follow courses such as drama, art, music, design and catering, in addition to their core options.

Challoner is a friendly community that seeks to enable each individual to achieve their goals and aspirations whilst always being of service to others. To really understand our school and our wonderful students you need to see it in action.

We look forward to welcoming you to Challoner soon.

Sean Maher BA (Hons) PGCE
Headmaster

Leadership and management of the Catholic life of the school are outstanding. The Governors and Headmaster are well aware of their Catholic mission and impart this to a loyal and committed staff.

Section 48 Inspection
Leadership and character

Character development and leadership are embedded in our school ethos. We believe in humility, magnanimity, courage, prudence and creativity. We expect it from our staff and our students.

We want our students to lead and be role models from the Sixth Form downwards. This is most obviously evidenced in our exhaustive House system, our exceptional wider curriculum offer, our Prefect team and School Parliament.

As a community, our Challoner family strives for everyday excellence so that we can all be of service to one another while becoming men and women for others. In this way we hope to develop young people of good character and leaders for the future.

Virtues and values focused on serving others

Morale is high. Students speak about the strength of relationships with fellow students and having role models in teachers and as a result they thrive and achieve.

Section 48 Inspection
Creativity and character development

Pastoral support and the House system

Upon entry to Richard Challoner School, each student is placed into a Form Group, under the care of a Form Tutor and Year Leader. Together, they oversee the academic progress as well as the social development of the students in their care, aiming to ensure that each student is able to make the best of the opportunities available to him at Richard Challoner. These pivotal roles also ensure that all students and parents have access to a personal point of contact with someone who is very familiar with their son.

Students follow a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) during a weekly lesson with their Form Tutor covering a range of topics around personal growth and development, including Relationships and Sex Education. All of these topics are taught in accordance with Catholic teaching and values.

Each Form Group also belongs to one of the six Houses named after notable Catholic Saints – Augustine, Becket, Columba, Dunstan, Fisher and More. House activities take place periodically throughout the whole of the academic year and in a range of disciplines, from Creative Arts subjects to Sports to academic subject areas. Our House system is a highly valued element of our wider-curricular offer and enables students to work across all age groups.

Our son has really grown in self-confidence since joining Richard Challoner. Thank you for all you have done to make his transition year so smooth and happy for him.

Year 7 Parent

Very good support ensures that all pupils make equally good progress. People with learning disabilities also do very well. This is a highly inclusive school.

Ofsted
Everyday excellence and high expectations

Curriculum, learning and teaching

Students at Richard Challoner School follow a broad and balanced curriculum that looks to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that students will need as they move through the school and into the wider world.

In Years 7-9 they will experience courses in English, Maths, Science, RS, Geography, History, a Modern Foreign Language, PE, Art, Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition, Drama, Music and Computer Science.

In Years 10-11 students have the option to follow a more specialised and focussed curriculum that supports their strengths and aspirations. In practice this means following a compulsory core curriculum, whilst allowing an element of choice that builds on the range of subjects followed in the lower school, as well as introducing some new subject areas.

They also follow courses in Personal, Social and Health Education and Games throughout their time at the school. The curriculum model is spread across a 35 period week, with each period lasting 45 minutes.

Within the classroom students are expected to take an active part in their own learning. Our staff strive to build the learning attributes that our students need to succeed and this is underpinned by the positive relationships and high expectations that are characteristic of this school. Consequently, a dynamic and purposeful learning environment is maintained where students and staff strive together in order to achieve “Everyday Excellence”.

Teachers have very good subject knowledge and have excellent relationships with their students, which in turn promotes an atmosphere in which students learn well and enjoy the subjects.

Section 48 Inspection

The quality of teaching is excellent, engaging and motivating pupils very well. Lessons are characterised generally, by lively interactive teaching and achievement is very good with standards well above average.

Ofsted
ICT at Richard Challoner

ICT has been a major part of learning and teaching at Richard Challoner School for many years, but the introduction of a 1:1 iPad scheme in 2013 has seen a transformation in the way ICT is used within the classroom. The scheme, funded via parental donations to the school fund, allows every student in Years 7 to 11 access to a device that is set up and personalised to them. Students use the iPad for a whole range of activities and learning opportunities across all subjects, helping to provide a rich and engaging curriculum. The iPads are managed on our school network and apps, in addition to other resources, are pushed out to the iPads, providing a seamless user experience. Students use Showbie to access work from teachers, but also to submit work back to them. Feedback can then be provided by the teacher via Showbie if appropriate. As well as using the iPads in lessons, students use them for independent learning activities outside the classroom.

In addition to the iPads, students have access to 65 Windows workstations in the Learning Resource Centre which is open from 7.30am every day and provides an ideal working environment for students across the whole school. We also have two very well equipped Computer Science labs where, from Year 8 onwards, programming is taught. Further ICT facilities are available in various department across the school, including Learning Support, Design Technology and Music. Colour photocopiers are positioned around the school and double up as printers for students, using their finger to biometrically release the print jobs. The same biometric system is used in the school canteen to provide a cashless catering facility. Parents can top-up school dinner accounts online and students use money via the biometric system to pay for food. Parents also have access to an online portal where assessment and behaviour data can be viewed live throughout the year. Personal details and contact information can also be reviewed live on the system.

The facilities at Richard Challoner are really good, I especially like having my own ipad. I am able to produce work of a really high standard which looks professional without having to queue to use a computer all the time, and because we can take them home, I just carry on where I left off, which makes life so much easier.

Year 10 student

Transforming learning for the 21st Century
Nurturing talent and providing opportunities

The Creative Arts

At Richard Challoner, we value the importance of a well-balanced education and how students develop and grow by participating in the broad and diverse wider curriculum opportunities offered by the Creative Arts departments.

There are a plethora of opportunities for students to demonstrate their musical, dramatic and artistic talent. Students have the opportunity to perform in at least three full-scale Drama productions each academic year, including taking two of these on an annual tour to Budapest, a tradition that goes back over 20 years! Over the last few years, students have staged theatre productions of Sophocles’ Antigone, Arthur Miller’s A View from the Bridge, A Comedy of Errors and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Students also get the opportunity to partake in our annual musical which has included Grease, Crazy for You and most recently, a spectacular, sell-out run of West Side Story. Students from all year groups also get the opportunity to perform in concerts both at school and in local venues whether it is with the Richard Challoner Orchestra, Jazz Band, Function Band or Choir which also tours to European destinations.

Along with the busy performance life of the school, there are also exhibitions of students’ artwork; the Art and Design department hold annual KS3, GCSE and A-Level exhibitions which display the work of every student in the school at some point in the year. On top of this, the department offers a KS3 Art Club as well as offering KS5 pupils Life Drawing sessions, studio workshops and portfolio support sessions from foundation universities. We also have the Big Draw House event each October while students’ work is annually selected for display in the National Youth Art Exhibition.

The skills developed through the Creative Arts are under-valued in some schools but help make our students what they are; independent, empathetic and passionate learners who are willing to go above and beyond to contribute in keeping creativity an integral part of our school community. At Challoner, Creative Arts is in our DNA.

Pupils’ attendance and behaviour are exemplary. They enjoy being at school and contribute very well in lessons and to the life of the wider school community. Sports, arts and musical opportunities are excellent and enable pupils to develop well beyond the classroom.

Ofsted
Health, competition and life-long learning through physical activity

Physical Education and Sport at Richard Challoner

Pupils at Richard Challoner are provided with a broad and balanced Physical Education and Sports curriculum which encourages all pupils to participate fully, leading to increased competence and creativity in order to maximise the potential of every pupil. Pupils at Key Stage 3 and 4 undertake a Physical Education and Games Lesson, with Key Stage 5 having a designated Games afternoon once per week.

Pupils can study Physical Education at GCSE and A-Level as well as qualifications in Sports Leadership.

Games afternoons involve the teaching and playing of traditional games as well as more recreational options at Key Stage 4 and 5. The school participates in District, County and National Competitions in the three major team sports of Basketball, Football and Rugby. Fixtures will usually occur during a Games afternoon as well as after school and a full Saturday morning fixture list is provided for all age groups during the Winter term (Rugby) and Spring term (Football).

The department also provides a comprehensive and competitive sporting calendar of House events for all year groups, including a Swimming Gala and Sports Day.

The Physical Education and Sports programme at Richard Challoner School aims to develop the skills of every pupil through physical activity; enabling them to make and apply decisions/tactics, as well as encouraging their physical and mental capacity so they can evaluate and improve. This holistic approach will assist them in making informed choices about the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle.

I love the wide range of sports on offer at our school but if you are not sporty there are lots of other areas you can explore and clubs you can join such as music, drama, art, cooking, reading... There really is something for everyone!

Year 8 student
Applying to Richard Challoner School

Moving the application process forward

Richard Challoner promotes high aspirations whilst encouraging all students to develop their God-given talents. We offer an outstanding learning experience and state-of-the-art facilities to challenge and inspire, ensuring every student reaches their full potential to enable them to make the most of future opportunities. If you would like your son to continue his Catholic education in our caring and supportive Challoner family, please come and see for yourself our ethos and what makes us special – we’ll happily show you around. Every day is open day at Richard Challoner.

A full guide to our admissions policy can be found inside the supplementary information enclosed within this prospectus or on our website www.richardchalloner.com

Richard Challoner is a really friendly community. There’s a lot of respect for each other and the relationships between students and staff are good too. This makes learning fun and there are so many opportunities for you to take if you want to. I’m so glad I came here.

Year 11 student

Richard Challoner provides a highly effective education for its pupils and the learning environment is outstandingly stimulating, caring and supportive.

Ofsted
Welcome from the Headmaster

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Section 48 Inspection
Our Vision
The teachings of Christ permeate all aspects of our school life. We seek to offer a high standard of education for all, care to the individual and good relations between staff, students and parents.

Each person is regarded as a child of God, an individual who is encouraged to develop his/her God-given talents, a sense of his/her own worth and to reach his/her full potential.

In partnership with the wider community, we aim to prepare each student to make full use of the opportunities available so that all are able to contribute to society.

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Tel: 020 8330 5947  www.richardchalloner.com

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Why is Richard Challoner Outstanding?
• Highly disciplined and community-oriented
• Enjoying a high standard of education
• Highly successful independent school in the country
• Highly regarded by parents and pupils alike
• Strong academic performance in GCSE and A levels
• Successful entry to leading universities
• Strongly supportive and caring academic and pastoral environment
• Strong sense of community and shared values