



Summer Bulletin

July 2026

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

As we reach the end of another extraordinary and busy academic year, I am filled with a real sense of gratitude and pride. Reflecting on this year, I am reminded daily of our shared mission at Richard Challoner and our commitment to 'Doing Ordinary Things Extraordinarily Well'. This year has been another testament to that outlook which has once again been brought to life through the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our students.

It has been a genuine joy to witness our young people throw themselves into a range of wider curriculum activities. From outstanding drama productions and competitive sporting fixtures to stunning musical concerts, art exhibitions and numerous trips and expeditions, our school has been vibrant and full of life. Once again, our House System has provided invaluable opportunities for all students to engage deeply with the life of the school. In particular, the Challoner Challenge has gone from strength to strength. It is a great sight to see so many students proudly wearing their bronze, silver, gold or beyond-gold Challoner Challenge stars on their blazers, representing their personal growth, resilience and service to others.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff, from across the school, who give up so much of their own time to lead, support and facilitate these wider curriculum opportunities. It is a true privilege to witness the positive, respectful and nurturing relationships between students and staff that are forged through these events. I have no doubt that these strong, supportive bonds have a direct positive impact on our excellent academic outcomes and the overall wellbeing of our young people.

The Friends of Challoner (FoC) have continued to provide us with vital financial support during what remain challenging economic times. Their tireless efforts have allowed us to secure equipment and resources that we simply could not provide from our day-to-day budget. I want to thank all the parents who have made this possible, as well as the families and students who have turned out in such large numbers to support FoC events. We are currently on course for a record-breaking fundraising year and I am grateful for your generosity and commitment.

On a personal note, I wish to extend a deeply felt thank you to everyone who offered their support, prayers and gentle encouragement to me during my recent period of ill health—including students, parents, staff, and governors. If I ever had any doubt about the uniqueness of our Challoner family (and, for the record, I certainly didn't) this period underlined the deeply caring, Christ centered nature of our school and wider community.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful and blessed summer break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the new school year once we have all had the opportunity to fully recharge our batteries.

With my grateful thanks to our governors, parents, staff and especially our magnificent students for everything you do for our School.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Maher
Headmaster



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KEY DATES – Autumn Term

Friday 10th July, 2026	School closes for the Summer Holidays -Dismissed 12.30pm -12.45pm.
Thursday 13th August, 2026	A Level Results Day.
Thursday 20th August, 2026	GCSE Results Day.
Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd September, 2026	Year 11 Work Experience
Tuesday 1st September, 2026	INSET Day.
Wednesday 2nd September, 2026	INSET Day.
Thursday 3rd September, 2026	Year 7 in School and Xavier Centre new intake. Year 8 – 10 one to one Interviews. 9.30am - Induction at “The Holy Cross School” for Year 12 Richard Challoner School students who have lessons at “The Holy Cross School” 9.30am - Induction at Richard Challoner School for Year 12 “The Holy Cross School” Students who have lessons at Richard Challoner School. Year 13 Mentor Meetings.
Friday 4th September, 2026	Year 7 in School Year 8 – 11 one to one Interviews. Year 12 Induction Day and Year 13 Mentor Meetings.
Saturday 5th September, 2026	Year 7 House Rugby – 9am
Monday 7th September, 2026	Lessons Start for ALL Year Groups Year 7 - Year 13
Tuesday 8th September, 2026	Year 12 Parents’ Welcome and Information Evening 6pm
Wednesday 9th September, 2026	Year 7 Welcome Mass – 7pm.
Wednesday 16th September, 2026	Photographs for Years 7, 9 and 11.
Friday 18th September, 2026	Challoner Day.
Wednesday 23rd September, 2026	Year 10 Parents’ Information Evening – 6pm.
Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th September, 2026	Challoner Fest, 2026
Tuesday 29th September, 2026	Year 7 Team Building Day
Tuesday 29th September, 2026	Open Evening for Year 7 Intake September 2027 – 6pm.
Wednesday 30th September, 2026	INSET Day - Staff Planning & Development Day.



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Thursday 8th October, 2026	Open morning for Year 7 Intake September 2027 – By appointment, 9.15am – 11.15am.
Wednesday 14th October, 2026	Sixth Form Open Evening at The Holy Cross School – 6pm.
Friday 16th October, 2026	An Evening of Shakespeare at the Garrick.
Monday 19th October, 2026	KS3 Soloists Concert
Wednesday 21st October, 2026	Sixth Form Tours for External Students – 5.15pm. Sixth Form Open Evening – Richard Challoner – 6pm.
Friday 23rd October, 2026	Autumn Half Term.
Tuesday 3rd November, 2026	School Resumes.
Wednesday 4th November, 2026	Remembrance Service
Friday 6th November, 2026	Friends of Challoner – Bingo Night – 6.30pm.
Tuesday 10th November, 2026	Year 12 Maths in Action Trip
Thursday 12th November, 2026	House CAD/CAM Competition
Thursday 12th November, 2026	MFL Celebration of Culture
Friday 13th November, 2026	Flu Immunisations – Years 7-11
Tuesday 17th November, 2026	INSET Day – Staff Pastoral INSET.
Wednesday 18th November, 2026	Careers Fair
Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th November, 2026	School Production – Sherlock Holmes (KS3).
Thursday 19th November, 2026	Year 13 Academic Review Evening – 4pm at The Holy Cross School.
Tuesday 24th November, 2026	Late start 9.30am – Teacher Learning Communities.
Tuesday 24th November, 2026	9.30am AtoL Tea (Invitation only).
Wednesday 25th November, 2026	Winter Concert – 7pm.
Thursday 26th November, 2026	Year 7 North Academic Review at 4pm.
Monday 30th November – Wednesday 2nd December, 2026	Year 8 Progress Assessments.
Thursday 3rd December, 2026	Year 7 South Academic Review – 4pm.
Monday 7th–Thursday 17th December, 2026	Year 11 Mock Exams.
Tuesday 8th December, 2026	8.40am - Sixth Form Awards Breakfast
Tuesday 8th December, 2026	Sociology in Action Conference
Monday 14th December, 2026	Friends of Challoner Carol Service – 7.30pm.
Wednesday 16th December, 2026	School Carol Service – Saint Matthias Church – 7.30pm.
Friday 18th December, 2026	Last Day of Term students dismissed 12.35pm-12.50pm.
Monday 4th January, 2027	School Opens for Students.

The Holy Cross School is closed 1st, 2nd September, 2026 and 23rd November, 2026.



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Chalk & Talk

Richard Challoner's school magazine, Chalk & Talk, is now available for you to view on the school website. Or [CLICK HERE](#)

Happy reading.

HOUSE POINTS

Final News.....Congratulations to More, WINNERS of the House Trophy for 2025/26.





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CHALLONER
FEST '26

FRIENDS OF CHALLONER **OLD EMANUEL RFC**

A WEEKEND OF FUN, FRIENDS & RUGBY!

SATURDAY 26TH TO SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

Richard Challoner Sports Fields,
Knollmead, KT5 9QN

FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING YEAR 7 FAMILIES

PITCH YOUR TENT
Pitch tents from 4pm to 5pm

BREAKFAST INCLUDED
Breakfast for 2 from 8am (additional breakfasts can be purchased on the day)

RUGBY TRAINING
All welcome to try out Old Emanuel Rugby training: Sunday @ 10am

£25 PER TENT PITCH

BBQ & BAR
AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE @ OLD EMANUEL RFC PAVILION, ON SITE

GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY • MEMORIES THAT LAST!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!



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On behalf of the Headmaster, Governors and Staff
at Richard Challoner School, best wishes for a very
Happy Summer

