

BC14

Lord,
I take this time today to pray all my worries and tell you the gratitude I have on my Heart. You are present and walking with me each day. Remind me to be grateful for all I have and have a positive attitude to all that I do.
Amen

Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

Friday 3rd April 2020

'We want to respond to the virus pandemic with the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness. Let us stay united.' Pope Francis

It has been an immensely challenging past few weeks for us all. Words like "social distancing" and "self-isolation" have become part of our daily language. We are engaging in a variety of new ways of communicating, invariably using technology to reach out to loved ones and keep in touch. All of this is perhaps "new" to us but maybe the real joy resides in re-discovering some of the things we have forgotten without the many distractions of modern living to contend with: communities coming together to support each other; hundreds of thousands of people volunteering to support the NHS; rainbows in windows to spread joy; the whole country uniting to applaud our frontline workers; schools, including our own, sharing vital PPE with care homes and hospitals; shops expanding home delivery to support the most vulnerable in society; families enjoying true quality time together. In all this we see the very best of society and look forward with great hope; it resonates strongly with us in our own Year of Community.

My sincere thanks goes to our brilliant teaching staff who have worked around the clock to provide a wealth of digital resources for students to access and collated a range of other freely available resources to support students in the coming weeks. Also to our support staff many of whom are now working remotely ensuring our school can still operate in these challenging times.

We will be keeping our school open to families of key workers throughout the Easter holiday; our heartfelt thanks go out to all within our community that are working on the frontline to support people across Birmingham and beyond. To those experiencing any illness at this time, our thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Please, stay safe: where you can stay at home. Best wishes for the Easter break.

Information for children of Keyworkers over the Easter Holiday

The school will continue to remain open over Easter for students of keyworkers who have no alternative provision for their children during the holiday period. We will open from 8:00 am each morning until 3:10 pm for the full two weeks, including Good Friday and the Easter Bank Holiday Monday.

Logistics for each day:

- Students should continue to enter school through the main reception in the sports hall, the front gates will not be used as an entrance
- Students will be expected to be at school for registration at 8:40am and school will finish at the normal time of 3:10 pm each day.
- Students do not need to wear school uniform but we ask that they do bring along their PE kit and school netbook
- There will be no catering facilities available over the Easter period so it is important that students bring a packed lunch, snacks and a suitable drink each day
- Students will take part in a range of sporting activities, games and school website enrichment activities

If you haven't already informed the school that you will be sending your children in over Easter we would ask you to email keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk at your earliest convenience.

Free School Meal Update

All students eligible for free school meals were sent a £15 Asda gift card last week, these were purchased by the school in the absence of any local authority or Department for Education provision at the time. For those that did not collect, these were posted out first class on Wednesday 25th March. We are aware that some parents/carers postal service has been affected so any delay is sadly beyond our control.

The local authority have provided all free school meal students with a £15 eVoucher for both weeks of the Easter holiday period. The first of these was available on Wednesday 1st April and if not collected it was posted first class. The second will be administered in the same way when we receive them in school.

The Department for Education have launched a National voucher scheme to cover term time weeks. These vouchers will be administered by email on a weekly basis. Please look out for an email that will be sent to the primary contact we have on our school system. If you do not have access to an email address to be able to redeem the voucher then please contact school on 0121 444 4161.

Support for Year 11 - A message from Mr Clarke, Head of Year

I firstly wanted to thank you for all of your support that you have shown the school over the last five years. It has been an absolute pleasure supporting your children through their time here at Bishop Challoner. I spoke with all of Year 11 after the Government announced that there was to be no summer exams and know that there was an overriding feeling of sadness that they would not be taking their final examinations this summer. I know how hard students have been working and understand wanting the opportunity to show what they have learnt in these examinations. I wanted to reaffirm my message, that ultimately, we do not learn to complete an examination but to gain knowledge and that the Knowledge that they have built up is something that cannot be taken away. It is important that we continue to build on this knowledge.

For each subject there is work to be continuing with on the school website, and for some subjects work has been emailed directly out by subject teachers or was handed out directly to students. Students should be carrying on with this work in a structure that is best suited to your current home routines. Any concerns about student work, students should email their subject teachers.

At present students may be feeling anxious and uncertain about the future, please be reassured that whilst we still don't have all of the answers to the many questions that you will have, we are very confident that all of your ambitions for the future are still achievable. We are still awaiting guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) and once we have more information we will share it

with you.

For students that have received an offer for a place at our Sixth Form, the team will be in touch in the coming weeks with details regarding enrolment arrangements. With new areas of the school dedicated solely to sixth form, this promises to be an exciting time for the sixth form at Bishop Challoner and I look forward to seeing many of you being part of that in September.

At this time it is beneficial to do some preparation for next year. This may include reading around the subjects you are taking or considering taking next year. For those of you considering carrying on with Mathematics and the Sciences a reminder that the CGP Head start to A-Level Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology books are free to download to Kindle from Amazon with more information available on the School website. Bridging resources in preparation for A-levels have also been added to the online work section of the website for some subjects and subjects will add more in due course.

It is our intention, when possible to do all that we can to ensure that the Year group can get together for a proper send off. When I have any details of such events I will let everybody know. There will also be some communication soon regarding Leavers Hoodies.

I wish you all a happy and safe Easter and if you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me at s.clarke@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a letter on the school website regarding Mental Health and Well being and how you may be able to support your child during this period. You will see there is a link to many resources which offer a range of support and advice.

All Children are different, some will be just fine but others may be struggling with their emotions, behaviour or anxiety levels at this time. Myself and the Mental Health team are available to support with any well-being concerns you may have with regard to your child during

this period of time. The emails of the Mental Health team are as follows:

Mrs Breen e.breen@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Mr Clarke s.clarke@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Mrs Nutt m.nutt@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Mrs Peckover k.peckover@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Mrs Reynolds r.reynolds@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
Mr Tipping s.tipping@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Please contact a member of the Mental Health and Well Being Team if you need further advice.

Activity Ideas

We would like to draw your attention towards our school website activities page. Staff have been working hard creating fun tasks or sourcing exciting activities that are free and available to all. It might just be what you are looking for to help entertain household members over the Easter holiday. Don't forget to email or tweet a picture of your amazing creations so that we can see what you have been getting up to. Follow the link below for the activities page. Have fun!

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/activity-ideas>



Sixth Form - A message from Mrs Nutt, Associate Principal

These must be the most unsettling times we all have known and perhaps even more so, for our students who have grown up with the internet on hand at all times to provide answers to everything. We still do not know exactly how grades will be awarded (the latest information on this subject is on our website) and students will be understandably worried about their future. In this unprecedented situation, all any of us can do is take each day at a time.

Students will have been keeping up with their studies, making use of the lessons and resources on the website, and after Easter the section containing preparation resources, for university and A Level study will go live. This is also the ideal time to pursue other interests too. Why not learn about Forensic Science or do an Introduction to Screenwriting? Both are free Futurelearn courses, and there is something there for everyone.

There is also a wealth of information on the CareersHub section of our website, where students can take part in virtual university open days and get support with personal statements. For all updates on university, exams, student finance and anything that may be affected by coronavirus we have a link to Discover Uni. It is a government website so will be kept up to date with reliable information. We are closely monitoring the position of students applying for apprenticeships; we will be in touch with students once we have more information.

It is our intention, when possible, to do all that we can to ensure that the Year 13 can get together for a proper send off.

Most importantly, do not forget that although college is not open, all of the Sixth Form staff and all of your teachers are available via email. Do not hesitate to get in touch.

We pray that you all stay fit and well. Look after yourselves and look after each other.

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:34

COVID-19 General Government Advice

The advice below has been taken directly from the Government Website

Social Distancing

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

They are to:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport when possible
- Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this. Please refer to employer guidance for more information
- Avoid large and small gatherings in public spaces, noting that pubs, restaurants, leisure centres and similar venues are currently shut as infections spread easily in closed spaces where people gather together.
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services

Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is practicable.

We strongly advise you to follow the above measures as much as you can and to significantly limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible, particularly if you:

- are over 70
- have an underlying health condition
- are pregnant

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks.

Handwashing and respiratory hygiene

There are general principles you can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser when you get home or into work, when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

This is World Autism Awareness Week

30th March to 5th April 2020

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), formerly known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a neurological difference in brain development that affects how a person develops. The four areas of difference are:

Social Understanding
Sensory Processing
Interests and Information Processing
Communication

Useful websites:

www.resourcesforautism.org.uk/covid-19-update/
www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk
www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk
www.autism.org.uk

Autism support - leading UK charity - National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society is the leading UK charity for autistic people (including those with Asperger syndrome) and their families. We provide information, support and pioneering services, and campaign for a world that works for autistic people.

www.autism.org.uk

www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Books recommended by the Communication and Autism Team:

- 'The girl with the curly hair' - Alis Rowe
- 'The Asperkid's secret book of social rules' - Jennifer Cooke O' Toole
- 'M in the middle' - the students of Limpsfield Grange School and Vicky Martin
- 'M is for autism' - the students of Limpsfield Grange School and Vicky Martin
- 'How to raise a happy autistic child' - Jessie Hewitson

Informative videos and films:

- YouTube - Amazing Things Happen
- YouTube - Fast Facts
- The lighthouse of the Orcas
- A boy called Po
- Atypical

The Autism Quotient Test is a psychological test that measures your Autism Spectrum Quotient, known as AQ.

<https://psychology-tools.com/test/autism-spectrum-quotient>

If you have any questions please ask Mrs S. Warhurst (Assistant SENCo) s.warhurst@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk or Mrs L. McGowan (Autism Lead Co-ordinator/Teaching Assistant) l.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Awarding Exam Grades

Without question COVID 19 has changed the way we in which we live our lives. Daily routines have been completely dismantled and we are all having to get used to a new way of life albeit, please God, for a short period of time. It has undoubtedly created anxieties and concerns across many households, not least in households that have students in Y11 and Y13 who, in normal circumstances, would now be busily preparing for GCSE and A level examinations.

At the time of writing, the exact process of awarding GCSE and A level grades remains unclear and we await further guidance, which is due to be published in the coming days. We completely understand the uncertainty faced by our students in Y11 and Y13 and we want to assure you all that we will support you through this period of uncertainty in the very best way that we can.

At the moment teachers at Bishop Challoner are not in a position to provide details to individual students or parent/carers regarding the awarding of GCSE and A level grades this year. The awarding of examination grades will ultimately be determined by individual examination boards and Ofqual, the examinations regulator.

Please be assured that as more information is published on the exact processes involved in awarding GCSE and A level grades this summer, we will share this with you. In the meantime please do not worry. God Bless.

Online Safety

It is only natural that during these challenging times, our students are experiencing an increase in the amount of time they are spending on digital devices. Bishop Challoner remains committed to supporting our parents / carers in ensuring our students remain safe online. Our recently published online safety advice available via this link provides guidance for parents and carers. <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news/2020-04-02-online-safety-advice>

Further support and guidance can also be obtained from:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- ThinkUKnow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

Student online work

Thank you to all students for their positive approach in completing the on line work from home over the past two weeks. We would also like to thank the parents/carers for their continued drive to ensure that their son(s)/daughter(s) completed the school activities set each day and reminded them about the importance of remaining on top of their studies. All the tasks uploaded onto the website have been carefully produced by class teachers to provide subject specific activities that are relevant to the school curriculum and designed to support students learning from home.

We wanted to inform you that we will not be uploading any subject based work over the two week Easter Holiday – instead we would ask students to explore the ‘activities page’ on the website to develop the more creative side and we would encourage students to take the opportunity to try something new during this restrictive time.

As a school we will be looking to make improvements to the on line work over the holiday ready for when we come back after Easter. We feel it is important to improve the communication links between students and class teachers and to allow students the opportunity to return completed work. We would also like to give additional support to our Yr10 and Yr12 students by having frequent contact with class teachers, to set regular assessments and to provide feedback where possible. We feel this is vitally important to ensure our students feel fully supported as they enter an examination year in September.

Our next cycle of student on line work will be available on the website from Monday 20th April.

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/online-work>



TIMETABLE - 8

WEEK 1 22 March - 27th March					WEEK 2 29th March - 3rd April				
Mon 1	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4	Fri 5	Mon 6	Tue 7	Wed 8	Thu 9	Fri 10
Maths	Science	English Education	Art	Maths	English Education	Science	English	Maths	English
Computing	Geography	French	Music	English	History	French	Religious Education	Geography	Art
English Education	History	English	French	Science	Computing	Maths	Music	English	Science

YEAR 8 - SUBJECTS

- Art
- Computing & ICT
- Design & Technology
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science

Click (This link will take you to the French GC website)
If this link doesn't work, type in the address bar: www.frenchgc.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter



Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Library:	@Mrs F Library
Biology:	@BCCbio	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Maths:	@BCMathsDept
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub	PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
Design:	@BCCCDesign	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
FOBC:	@bc_friends	Science:	@BCSciDept
French:	@BC_MFL	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
History:	@history_GCSEBC	Teaching School:	@teaching_school

