



# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 10 October Half Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am so proud of the fantastic start Year 10 have made after returning to school in September. I have enjoyed seeing them back in the school environment. They have applied themselves with diligence to their studies and seemingly relished the academic challenge of being back at school. Now they have settled into Option subjects, it is clear that we have a year group with a wide range of talents and a depth of interest across many areas.

Those students who are thinking about a career in medicine are writing applications for medical work experience which is extremely exciting for them. After half term we will be launching an online work experience portal 'Unifrog' for the entire year group to allow them to research future career opportunities and inspire students in their studies further. I know many students are continuing with their extra-curricular activities and enjoying Music and Sports. It is wonderful to hear success stories of these individuals.

## Class Charts

Class Charts, a system introduced during lockdown, is a phenomenal resource for parents/carers to see and view how their child is performing in school. It illustrates their behaviours and positive logs as well as homework set, due dates and whether it was completed. Indeed, if homework is completed via class-charts, the feedback is also available to see here. I would encourage you to use this system. Please contact school if you need your parent/carer access code.

## Black History Month

Year 10 had a virtual assembly about Black History Month and the Windrush generation, I was so pleased that one student shared her family history linked to this topic. The aim of our assemblies is to provoke thought and discussion, I would be very keen to hear other stories of ancestry from those in our year group. One of our other assemblies focussed on Mental Health and this is an area which I hope all members of our year group trust that we priorities. I urge anyone feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or upset to please see a member of staff. There is a plethora of information on our school website to support parents/guardians and students online. Another topic focused on was growth mindset, extremely relevant to our students returning after lockdown. We discussed words as resilience and 'stickability' even when things are tough. Many students have stayed after school for support with different subjects have embraced this growth mindset attitude.

## Covid 19 Test Results

If your son/daughter develops any of the Covid 19 symptoms and is therefore tested over the half term break it is very important that the school is made aware. Please inform us of the test result by emailing [result@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:result@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk), within the email please include the date of the onset of symptoms and what the symptoms were. A team of staff will be picking up these emails and will respond accordingly. If a positive test is received, we may require some further information, in this instance a member of staff will contact you via a telephone call.

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There have been many changes this year due to the pandemic which have all been put in place to best support and protect our school community. Masks are worn in all corridors and the one way system is strictly adhered to. Likewise, hand sanitising is encouraged throughout the school day. It is of vital importance that all continue to adhere to such high standards of hygiene and distancing that have been implemented for their safety. Thank you to Year 10 for complying and continuing to uphold our values and safety precautions to best support all of our health.

The last few months are going to have a continual impact. If there are any concerns that we can help with, any anxieties that need to be discussed, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will endeavour to support you as much as possible.

### **Year of Community**

We are continuing with another 'Year of Community' in school and we look forward to planning lots of charity events to support the CAFOD school charity. Any socially distanced fundraising ideas are welcome!



We are also excited to be involved in the Colm Smyth Shoebox appeal in school and helping to reach the school target of over 1000 shoeboxes!!

### **Timings of the day**

The timings of the day have altered for Year 10 whereby their lessons start, as you are aware, at 8.50am. Please be aware that this is the start of lesson and therefore it is important that students are prompt.

### **Schoolcomms**

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is the only system to make payments for your child's school dinners and school trips. There is only one money loading machine in operation in the school so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used. For further information please visit our website [www.bishopchalloner.org.uk](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk)

### **Uniform and Appearance**

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes and boots are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of stud earrings which may be worn by girls.

### **Mobile Phones**

With most students in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. Students found with mobile phones during lessons and around the school will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the discretion of senior staff/Heads of Year. In more persistent cases, phones may only be returned to parents/carers.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

- Year 10- 95%
- Whole school- 94%

Considering the situation we find ourselves in the attendance of Year 10 this half term is very pleasing. We hope that this will continue for the remainder of the academic year. We will continue to strive to meet our attendance target of 97%.

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence. Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

### Absence Reporting and Covid-19

If your son/daughter is required to self-isolate in line with government guidance work will only be made available via Class Charts when the school is informed. Please keep school informed of any progress regarding testing. **If your son/daughter's is confirmed positive please inform the school immediately.**

### Bike Safety

It is good to see a higher proportion of students cycling to school, we will be providing additional bike parking racks in the near future. It is essential that your son/daughter rides responsibly and they MUST wear a helmet. Should we have any concerns re your son/daughters road safety we will be in touch.

Lastly, I would like to thank all students for a quite brilliant start to the year. I am already excited to see what this year group can achieve. An excellent start made, keep it up!!

I hope that all students and their families can enjoy a relaxing half term before their return on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hampson  
**Head of Year 10**

Miss Barron-Richardson  
**Assistant Head of Year 10**

### Key Dates

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November-**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November-

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November-

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November-

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December-

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December-

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December-

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December-

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December-**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January-**

### School Open

All Souls Day

Year 11, 12 & 13 Parent Consultation

Anti-bullying week

Sixth Form Open Evening

Food Bank Collection starts

Christmas Fair

Christmaths Day

Winter Soiree

Year 7, 9 and 10 Parent Consultation

Christmas Show

**School Closed- Inset Day**

**School Open**

Remember – follow our many twitter feeds for updates on what is happening at BC!



Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner	Science:	@BCSciDept
Science:	@BCSciDept	Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Teaching School:	@teaching_school	Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
School Games:	@BCSGO	History:	@history_GCSEBC
Computing:	@BishopChalComp	Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP

Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy	Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
Biology:	@BCCbio	School Games:	@BCSGO
English:	@BC_EnglishDept	Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
PE:	@BCPEDepartment	Central Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Maths:	@BCMathsDept	FOBC:	@bc_friends
Geography:	@BCGeogDept	Design:	@BCCDesign